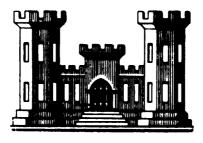
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POST FLOOD REPORT

FOR FLOOD OF 18-25 MARCH 1968 IN NEW ENGLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WALTHAM, MASS.

AUGUST 1968

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IN NEW ENGLAND

Department of the Army
New England Division, Corps of Engineers
Waltham, Mass.

August 1968

NEW ENGLAND FLOODS OF MARCH 1968

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NEW ENGLAND FLOODS OF MARCH 1968

PART I - HYDROLOGY

1. STORMS

- a. General. The 1967-68 winter produced various climatic conditions contributing to the flood which occurred during the latter part of March 1968. Periods of prolonged cold spells in early January and again in February resulted in a deep penetration of frost and thick ice cover on lakes and rivers. Snow cover was above normal in southern New England and about average in northern areas. Water content of the snow for the week of 4 March 1968 is shown on plate 1. A large part of the snow cover in southern areas had melted prior to the rainstorm of 17 and 18 March. This snowmelt had saturated swamps and low meadowlands and already produced above normal streamflows. In northern areas ice still remained solid in the lakes and rivers and temperatures were not high enough to cause any appreciable snowmelt.
- b. Storms. Heavy rainfall occurred over New England starting on Sunday, 17 March and continuing through Monday, 18 March. Highest amounts of precipitation were recorded in southeastern areas where 5 to 7 inches fell in the triangular area formed by Boston, central Rhode Island and Cape Cod Canal. Areas further west and north received diminishing amounts but practically all New England had a minimum of 1 inch.

An isohyetal map for the storm of 17-19 March, based on data

furnished by the U. S. Weather Bureau, is shown on plate 2. Mass rainfall curves from several recording precipitation stations are shown on plate 3. The following table presents total rainfall data in southern and central New England:

TABLE I

TOTAL RAINFALL AT SELECTED STATIONS
FOR STORM OF 17-19 MARCH 1968

Station	Total (inches)	<u>Station</u>	Total (inches)
MASSACHUSETTS		CONNECTICUT	
Blue Hills Hingham Falmouth	7•7 7•0 6•9	West Thompson Dam Putnam Jewett City	3.8 3.6 3.5
Cohasset South Weymouth West Hill Dam	6.5 5.7 5.1	Mansfield Hollow Dam New Haven Hartford	2.2 2.0 1.7
Boston Worcester Natick	5.1 4.9 4.8	MAINE Portland	2.4
Buffumville Dam North Reading Lowell	4.5 4.0 3.0	NEW HAMPSHIRE MacDowell Dam	3• 7
East Brimfield Dam Birch Hill Dam Knightville Dam	2.7 2.7 2.5	Portsmouth Hopkinton Dam Otter Brook Dam	3.4 3.0 1.7
RHODE ISLAND	-	VERMONT	
Woonsocket Providence	5•2 5•0	Ball Mountain Dam North Springfield Dam Union Village Dam	2.1 1.6 1.0

On 23 March, warm temperatures and another period of shower activity released up to an inch of rainfall over the mountainous areas of northern and western portions of New England.

2. FLOODS

a. Flooding from storm of 17-18 March. Areas in southern New England where snowmelt had already produced moderate increases in riverflows were experiencing the highest amounts of runoff as a result of the rainfall of 17-18 March. Major floods immediately developed in most river basins in southeastern New England and are listed below:

Rivers States

Thames (French, Quinebaug

and Shetucket) Massachusetts, Connecticut

Pawcatuck Rhode Island
Pawtuxet Rhode Island

Woonasquatucket Rhode Island

Blackstone Massachusetts, Rhode Island

Taunton Massachusetts

Neponset Massachusetts
Charles Massachusetts
Ipswich Massachusetts
Concord Massachusetts

Record peak discharges were recorded at several gaging stations.

Throughout the entire Charles River basin this flood either equaled or exceeded record discharges associated with the March 1936 or August 1955 floods. On the Concord River at Lowell, Massachusetts (312 square miles) the peak flow of 4,900 cfs exceeded the record August 1955 discharge of 4,540 cfs. Maximum floods of record also occurred in the Taunton, Pawtuxet and Pawcatuck River basins. On the Blackstone River at Woonsocket, Rhode Island the flood was second only to the August 1955 event.

A summary of March 1968 flood discharges compiled by the U. S. Geological Survey is listed in table II.

b. Flooding from storm of 23-24 March. During the following weekend of 23-24 March, moderate rain combined with melting snow in western
and northern New England caused the Connecticut River to reach or slightly
exceed flood stages along its entire reach. Stages were also affected by
ice jams at several locations, notably the Bellows Falls, Vermont area on
the Connecticut River.

TABLE II
SUMMARY OF FLOOD DISCHARGES
18-23 MARCH 1968

Bo.	Streem and Location	Drainage Area	Period of Record	Date		Stage (ft)	Previously K	cfs per Square Hile	Maxis Time and Date	Stage	Present Floo Discharge	cfs per Square Mile
	MERRIMACK RIVER BASIN	(sq.mi.)				(T)	(cfs)	(c==)		(ft)	(cfs)	(casa)
1	North Mashua River near Leominster, Mass.	107	1935-	18 Mar	1936	20.53	16,300	152	0600 - 19 Mar	7.97	4,000	37.4
2	Squammacook River near West Groton, Mass.	62.8	19 49-	16 Oct	1955	8.04	4,010	63.9	1000 - 19 Mar	6.82	2,260	36.0
3	Nashua River at East Pepperell, Mass.	316	1935-	20 Mar	1936	19.1	20,900	66.1	2315 - 20 Mar	11.77	6,900	21.8
•	Assabet River at Maymard, Mass.	116	1941-	20 Aug	1955	8,94	4,250	36.6	1100 - 19 Mar	7.80	3,300	28.4
5	Hashoba Brook near Acton, Mass.	12.7	1963-	26 May	1967	4.11	128	10.1	1100 - 20 Mar	5.07	360	26.3
6	Comcord River below River Headow Brook at Lowell, Mass.	312	1936-	23 Aug	1955	8.97	4,540	14.6	1400 - 22 Mar	9.15	4,900	15.7
7	Merrimack River below Concord River at Lowell, Mass.	4,425	1923-	20 Mar	1936	68.4	173,000	39.1	0100 - 23 Mar	51.15	44,400	10.0
8	Shawsheen River near Wilmington, Mass.	35.1	1963-	26 Nay	1967	6.72	476	13.6	1315 - 19 Mar	8.60	980	27.9
9	East Meadow River near Haverhill, Mass.	4.93	1962-	6-7 Dec	1962	4.89	127	25.8	0500 - 19 Mar	5.45	210	42.6
	PARKER RIVER BASIE											
10	Parker River at Byfield, Mass.	21.6	1945-	27 Jan	1958	5.49	479	22.2	1030 - 20 Mar	5.41	470	21.8
	IPSWICE RIVER BASIN											
n	Maple Meadow Brook at Wilmington, Mass.	3-99	1962-	7 Oct	1962	5-33	103	25.8	1045 - 19 Mar	5.64	106	26. 6
12	Ipswich River at South Middleton, Mass.	43.4	1938-	7 Oct	1962	6.99	808	18.6	1600 - 20 Mar	7.07	890	20.5
13	Ipswich River near Ipswich, Mass.	124	1930-	15 Mar	1936	7.70	2,610	21.0	0200 - 21 Mar	8.41	2,700	21.8
	MISTIC RIVER BASIN											
14	Aberjona River at Winchester, Mass.	23.3	1939-	19 Aug	1955	13.64	835	35.8	0200 - 19 Mar	13.74	660	28.3
	CHARLES RIVER BASIN											
15	Charles River at Charles River Village, Hass.	184	1937-	23 Aug :	1955	9.24	3,220	17.5	0115 - 22 Mar	8.72	3,200	17.4
16	Nother Brook at Decham, Mass.	-	1931-	24 Aug :	1955	92.90	970	-	- 22 Mar	86.86	990	-
17	Charles River at Welleslay, Mass.	211	1959-	5 Apr :	1960	5.16	1,470	6.97	1630 - 22 Mar	6.20	2,400	11.4
18	Charles River at Waltham, Mass.	227	1931-	19 Mar :	1936	4.79	2,540	11.2	0830 - 22 Mar	5 .3 8	2,620	11.5
	HEPCHENT RIVER BASIN											
19	Nepomeet River at Norwood, Mass.	35•2	1939-	19 Aug :		14.65	1,490	42.3	2400 - 18 Mar	10.45	1,050	29.8
20	East Branch Hepomeet River at Canton, Mass.	27.2	1952-	19 Aug :	1955	8.18	1,790	65.8	1745 - 19 Mar	6.87	1,270	46.7
	TAUNTON RIVER BASIN					•						
21.	Dorchester Brook near Brockton, Mass.	4. 67	1962-	7 Oct 1	1962	3.6	130	27.8	1330 - 18 Mar	5.86	360	77.1
22	Taunton River at State Parm, Mass.	260	19 29-	21 Aug 1		13.02	4,010	15.4	1500 - 20 Mar	14.47	5,000	19.2
23	Vading River at Vest Hemsfield, Mass.	19.2	1953-	20 Aug 1		6.22	519	27.0	1100 - 19 Mar	6.60	370	19.3
24	Wading River near Horton, Mass.	42.4	1925-	20 Ang 1		10.98	1,170	27.6	0100 - 19 Mar	11.45	1,440	34.0
25	Threemile River at North Dighton, Mass.	83.8	1966-	27 Hay 1		6.31	1,340	16.0	1900 - 19 Har	8.30	2,450	29.2
26	Segregament River near Dighton, Mass.	10.6	1966-	26 May 1	1967	5.81	512	48.3	1945 - 18 Mar	7•53	890	84.0

TABLE II (continued)

SUMMARY OF PLOOD DISCRARGES 18-23 MARCH 1968

				Maximum Flood Previously Known			Maximum During Present Flood*					
No.	Streem and Location	Drainage Area (sq.mi.)	Period of Record	Dat		Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	cfs per Square Mile (csm)	Time and Date	Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	cfs per Square Mile (cmm)
	WEINOUTH BACK RIVER BABLE											
27	Old Swamp River near South Weymouth, Mass.	4.29	1966	26 May	1967	3.98	207	48.2	2300 - 18 Mar	5.22	580	135
	MORTE RIVER BASIN											
28	Indian Head River at Hamover, Mass.	30.3	1966-	26 May	1967	5.62	788	26.0	2330 - 18 Mar	7.18	1,410	46.5
	WEST BRANCE WESTPORT RIVER BASIN											
29	Ademoville Brook at Ademoville, R. I.	8.6	1940-	20 Sept	1960	7.135	273	31.7	1200 - 18 Mar	7.67	200	23.3
	PALMER RIVER BASIS											
30	Bliss Brook near Reboboth, Mass.	4.96	1962-	26 May	1967	5.04	249	50.2	1115 - 18 Mar	5.43	550	111
	BLACKSTONE RIVER BASIN											
31	Blackstone River at Northbridge, Mass.	139	1939-	20 Aug	1955	16.74	16,900	122	0300 - 19 Mar	10.91	4,700	33.8
32	Nipuuc River near Harrisville, R. I.	16.0	1964-	26 May	1967	6.58	527	32. 9	1930 - 18 Mar	7.42	750	46.9
33	Branch River at Forestdale, R. I.	93•3	1940-	19 Aug	1955	10,52	4,240	45.4	2300 - 18 Mar	11.90	5,600	60.0
3 4	Blackstone River at Woomsocket, R. I.	416	19 2 9-	19 Aug	1955	21.8	32,900	79.1	0615 - 19 Mar	14.63	15,400	37.0
35	Blackstone River Tributary at Woonsocket, R. I.	2.22	1965-	26 May	1967	2.97	116 _.	52.3	1100 - 18 Mar	3-52	175	78.8
	NOBEASSUCK RIVER BASIS											
36	Moshassuck River at Providence, R. I.	23.1	1963-	1 Aug	1967	4.40	1,110	48.1	0900 - 18 Mar	4.29	1,000	43.3
	WOOMASQUATUCKET RIVER BASIN											
37	Woonasquatucket River at Centerdale, R. I.	38.3	1941-	11 Sept	1954	7.03	1,110	28.7	- 19 Mar	7•7	1,400	36.6
	PANTUKET RIVER BASIE											
38	Mosquitohawk Brook near Borth Scituate, R. I.	3.06	1965-	26 May	1967	3.09	216	70.6	1030 - 18 Mar	3.46	410	134
39	Hoosemeck River at Hoosemeck, R. I.	8.23	1963-	25 Fe b	1965	-	223	27.1	1800 - 18 Mar	5.55	25 5	31.0
40	Carr River near Hooseneck, R. I.	6.73	1963-	26 Feb	1965	4.77	96	14.3	1300 - 18 Her	6.50	220	32.7
41	South Branch Pawtuxet River at Washington, R. I.	63.8	1940-	12 Sept	1954	4.11	1,320	20.7	2400 - 18 Mar	5.09	1,800	28.2
12	Furnace Hill Brook at Cramston, R. I.	4.19	1965-	25 May	1967	4.58	217	51.8	0100 - 18 Mar	4.67	227	54.2
43	Pawtuxet River at Cranston, R. I.	200	1939-	27 May	1967	9•95	2,360	11.8	2400 - 18 Mar	11.53	3,000	15.0
	PANCATUCK RIVER BASIS											
ji ji	Meadow Brook near Carolina, R. I.	5•53	1965-	7 Mar	1967	4.25	55	9•95	1300 - 18 Mar	6.07	175	31.6
45	Wood River near Arcadia, R. I.	35.2	1964-	26 Jean	1964	-	390	11.1	2100 - 18 Mar	8.64	850	24.1
146	Wood River at Hope Valley, R. I.	72.4	1941-	12 S e pt	1954	7.45	1,470	20.3	2200 - 18 Mar	8.26	1,800	24.9
	TEAMES RIVER BASIN											
47	Bucks Horn Brook at Greens, R. I.	5.52	1965-	*26 May	1967	3.76	144	26.1	1200 - 18 Mar	5.49	500	90.6

^{*} Provisional Data

PART II - RESERVOIR REGULATION

1. GENERAL

All 31 Corps of Engineers flood control dams and reservoirs were operated during the two storm and flood events. Highest stages, since completion of the dams, were experienced in 10 reservoirs. In the Blackstone and Thames River basins where major flooding occurred, a detailed graphical summary of reservoir regulation and the effect at selected index stations is shown on plates 4, 5 and 6. Monthly reservoir operation charts for all reservoirs for March 1968 are shown on plates 7 through 37. A tabulation of river stage reductions at selected locations is listed in table III. Effectiveness of the reservoirs in various river basins is briefly described in the following paragraphs.

2. BLACKSTONE RIVER

West Hill Dam and Reservoir, located near Uxbridge, Massachusetts, stored all runoff from the West River during the flood. Controlling a drainage area less than 10 percent of the lower basin it is estimated that flood stages were reduced about 1 foot from Woonsocket to Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The Worcester Diversion project on Kettle Brook, experiencing its highest flows since completion, bypassed discharges from the congested Webster Square area and Middle River in Worcester through a tunnel and channel to the Blackstone River at Millbury, Massachusetts.

3. THAMES RIVER

Five reservoirs, namely, Buffumville, Hodges Village, East Brimfield, Westville and West Thompson stored floodwaters in the upper Quinebaug

and French River watersheds. It is estimated that Buffumville and Hodges Village reduced the stage at the USGS gaging station on the French River at Webster, Massachusetts by 6 feet, a substantial reduction. At Putnam, Connecticut the effect of all 5 reservoirs lowered the river stage by $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

In the Shetucket River watershed, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir reduced the stage of the Shetucket River in Williamntic, Connecticut by approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

4. CONNECTICUT RIVER

Reservoirs were regulated to restrict outflow during the first rise following snowmelt and rainfall of 17-18 March. Outflow was regulated at all dams following the additional rainfall on 23 March and development of an ice jam on the Connecticut River upstream of Bellows Falls, Vermont. The Connecticut River crested well above flood stages in areas affected by the ice jams, but about flood stage below Bellows Falls. The river was 4 feet above flood stage at Montague City, Massachusetts and approximately flood stage in southern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Without Corps of Engineers regulation, it is estimated that river stages would have been 1 to 2 feet higher. The reservoirs also effectively reduced flood stages in cities and towns on tributaries of the Connecticut River.

5. MERRIMACK RIVER

All reservoirs on the Contoocook River, namely, MacDowell, Blackwater and Hopkinton-Everett were regulated to alleviate ice jam conditions in Peterboro, New Hampshire and to control flow in the Merrimack River from Concord, New Hampshire to the mouth of the river in Massachusetts.

TABLE III

FLOOD OF MARCH 1968

EFFECT OF REG LATED PROJECTS AT SELECTED LOCATIONS

	Experienced C	onditions	Natural Con	ditions*	
Location	Discharge (cfs)	Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	Stage (ft)	Flood Stage (ft)
THAMES RIVER BASIN					
American Optical Dam Quinebaug River at Southbridge, Mass.	1,500		4,500		-
USGS Gaging Station Quinebaug River at Putnam, Conn.	3 ,2 00	7•8	11,200	14.3	11.5
USGS Gaging Station French River at Webster, Mass.	1,050	7.8	3,850	14	8
USGS Gaging Station Shetucket River at Willimantic, Conn.	4,900	8.3	10,000	11.9	10
BLACKSTONE RIVER BASIN					
USGS Gaging Station Blackstone River at Woonsocket, R. I.	15,400	14.63	16,900	15.5	9
Webster Street Bridge Middle River at Worcester, Mass.	1,000**		2,400**		-
CONNECTICUT RIVER BASIN					
USGS Gaging Station Connecticut River at Montague City, Mass.	101,500	32.1	111,000	33•7	28
Holyoke Water Co. Dam Holyoke, Mass.	94,500	9.2	103,500	9.8	9
USWB Gage Connecticut River at Hartford, Conn. (w/Bodkin Rock Discharge)	102,000	21.6	107,000	22.2	22

^{*} Discharges and stages that would have occurred without Corps of Engineers flood control projects

^{**} Estimated

Observed river stages in the lower basin were about 1 foot below flood levels. Without regulation, the river would have been about flood stage.

6. NAUGATUCK RIVER

Discharges were impounded in Thomaston Reservoir and the smaller ungated dam projects. Although stages in the lower Naugatuck River were reduced by several feet, flood stages would not have occurred without regulation.

PART III - FLOOD LOSSES

1. GENERAL

Damages due to floodwaters from the storm of 17-19 March were widespread and substantial although only in the case of a dam failure in East Lee, Massachusetts on the Sunday (24 March) following the storm was loss of life and a heavy concentration of damage in a small area involved. The primary storm was centered over eastern Massachusetts and in this area floodflows peaked rapidly. The northern and western fringes of the storm, bringing rain to the Connecticut River basin and western Massachusetts, set the stage for additional rainfall and melting snow in these areas late in the week of 17-23 March to apparently contribute to the dam failure and cause high flows in the Connecticut River basin with two serious ice jams resulting. There was a less spectacular dam failure in Easton, Massachusetts, a community some 15 miles south of Boston. Located above a residential area the broken dam released a wall of water which damaged over 50 homes and caused evacuation of many others.

While flood swollen streams caused much of the loss to properties adjacent to the streams, a surprising amount of damage was done to properties which the owners did not even realize were flood prone. This was brought about over the years as inland wetlands were filled in and developed for housing and industrial parks, especially in eastern Massachusetts. Many of these developments are some distance from major streams and the threat of flooding was not apparent. Moreover, the first half of the 1960 decade was a time of drought in the Northeast and

this tended to mask the problem as ground water levels were at record lows during the period. With the return to normal levels in 1967 the area needed only a major storm with rapid runoff to be in real trouble.

Generally, not too much development has taken place in recent years in the well defined flood plains of the region's major streams. This is not to say the major flood plains are vacant; the older industrial and commercial plant which originally developed the areas is still there and in some cases has expanded. These properties are so operated as to minimize flood losses and only a major flood would cause heavy damages. Only the Blackstone of the region's major streams had sizeable flood losses in the March 1968 event.

It was the region's small streams which caused the bulk of losses reported in the flood. Two factors contributed greatly to the problem, development of the wetlands, already noted, and in the built-up urban areas, a good deal of encroachment of the actual channels of the streams by dumps, parking areas and similar developments. Some measure of the effects of these trespasses on the flood plain can be grasped by noting that of 43 minor streams reported on by the Geological Survey in the March event 29 had record flows (see table 2). While the records for some of the streams are short, the trend toward increased concentration of runoff caused by urban development is marked.

2. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

During the week of 17-23 March two-man parties were dispatched to areas with reported flood problems. Eight such parties were so used, mainly during the period of 19-24 March. Their basic mission was

observation, establishment of high watermarks for future use, usable photographs and collection of such information on probable losses as was readily available. The area covered was generally in eastern and central Massachusetts and the northern portion of Rhode Island. Following the field reconnaissance, reports covering each trip were prepared by the fieldmen with copies furnished to the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch and Economics Section for future use.

3. LOSS ANALYSIS

The loss data used for this report are based on: (a) Stage-loss data for rivers and streams on which studies have been made in the past for survey reports, (b) analysis of photographs and reports resulting from field investigations of 19-24 March supplemented by discussions with the field personnel, (c) verifiable reports by State Civil Defense Authorities, and (d) newspaper reports and photographs.

In evaluating loss items based on newspaper reports certain unit values based on judgment and past damage surveys were used. For houses with reported basement flooding only, a unit loss of \$300 was assumed. For houses which were surrounded by water the unit loss was assumed to be \$1,000. No attempt was made to analyze the depreciation in value in either case. For commercial and industrial properties available data on other plants in the files were used as a guide.

For the Blackstone, French, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Nashua, Sudbury, Assabet, Concord and Shawsheen Rivers loss estimates (and damages prevented) were estimated directly from the file of the Economics Section using data on stages furnished by the Hydrology Branch.

14. FLOOD LOSSES

Massachusetts	\$35 , 000 ,00 0
Connecticut	100,000
Rhode Island	9,000,000
New Hampshire	300,000
Vermont	100,000

By major categories the losses amounted to:

Industrial	\$ 9,500,000
Commercial	2,500,000
Residential	28,500,000
Public	4,500,000

Two lives were lost in the town of Lee, Massachusetts.

The total figure for residential losses reflects the effect of the wetlands development previously commented on. On 19 March, State Civil Defense Headquarters for Massachusetts estimated that 20,000 homes had received storm damage. Later in the week Civil Defense authorities placed the total number of homes with "basement damage" at 30 to 40,000 in all New England. About 5,000 of these homes were in the flood plains adjacent to the region's streams and could be accounted for as to amount and location. Using the lower Civil Defense estimate of 30,000 homes means losses to 25,000 dwellings in developed wetlands. The bulk of these are in Massachusetts. In evaluating losses to these homes it was noted that most would be relatively new and that current trends in

building included "family rooms" or playrooms with finished floors and walls in basements. That some of the homes would be split level was also considered. A unit loss value of \$1,000 was therefore used. Some of the areas of concentrated losses are noted below.

- b. Lee, Massachusetts (Housatonic River basin). The failure of a private dam at a real estate development called "Lake Lee" in the eastern part of Lee caused havor in this western Massachusetts community of 6,000 people. A mile long section of Route Massachusetts-U.S. 20, one of the region's principal east-west roads, was badly damaged, 5 houses were destroyed, 34 other homes damaged and a medium sized industrial plant was almost gutted by the wave of water which swept down normally placid Greenwater Pond Brook and Goose Pond Brook. Two elderly people in one of the destroyed homes were killed. Losses were estimated to exceed \$7 million.
- c. Braintree-Weymouth area, Massachusetts. These adjoining communities on the south shore of Boston Harbor have been increasingly built over in the past two decades and have doubled their population in that period. Their combined population is approaching 90,000 people. Encroachment on the flood plain, inadequate sized culverts and high flows on Smelt Brook and Monantiquot River caused losses estimated at \$2 million. The largest losses were experienced in the central business area at Weymouth Landing where depths up to 4 feet of water in the streets flooded stores and brought business to a standstill.
- d. Olneyville (Providence), Rhode Island. The channel of the Woonasquatucket River in the Olneyville section of Providence has been

greatly restricted by indiscriminate dumping over the years. When the highest flow of 27 years of record occurred on 19 March the basements of several old manufacturing plants now used for storage and light industrial production by several tenants were flooded. Damages were estimated at \$2,500,000 principally to stored materials.

e. Taunton, Massachusetts. This industrial city in southeastern
Massachusetts was the site of a week-long emergency as city, state and
Federal officials fought to prevent failure of two old dams on the
Taunton River lying above the heart of the city. The area downstream of
the dam was evacuated. Direct costs of the flood exceeded \$900,000.
This figure includes \$832,000 which the Mayor of Taunton reported to Civil
Defense authorities based on estimates from his department heads and
covers the costs of the flood fighting plus the anticipated costs of
cleanup and repairs. The business losses were not estimated. The Corps
provided major technical assistance to state and local officials, at
their requests, in this successful flood fight.

5. DAMAGES PREVENTED

During the flood event all flood control reservoirs in the New England Division were operated although in the case of those located in northern New Hampshire and Vermont the operation was only a precautionary measure. This also held true for the Naugatuck River basin.

In the Blackstone, Thames and lower Connecticut River basins Corps projects prevented substantial losses in communities along the main stems of the rivers and their principal tributaries.

In Canton, Massachusetts a diversion project built by the Corps

under a Section 205 authority prevented losses estimated at \$2,500,000.

In the Blackstone River basin, Corps-constructed projects prevented \$8 million in decayers.

In the Thomas River basin all Corps dams were operated effectively and damages in the amount of \$7 million were prevented.

In the Connecticut River basin the system of reservoirs and local protection works prevented losses estimated at \$6,500,000.

Total damages prevented during the flood amount to \$24 million.

PART IV - EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

1. GENERAL

The emergency operations generated by the March floods consisted of technical assistance and advice to states and municipalities, the furnishing of sandbags to the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency, and the survey of damages and estimates of cost of possible remedial work. The cost estimates were provided at the request of the Office of Emergency Planning. A great number of calls for information or advice were received, and the principal areas of such requests are briefly summarized in the succeeding paragraphs.

Ice jams had formed at several areas in New England during the winter causing concern as to possible flooding, particularly at the time of spring thaw and runoff. The New England Division had sent letters prior to the March flooding to the Governors of the six states advising of the possibility and the extent of assistance the Corps could provide, the limitations on such assistance, and the responsibilities of the municipalities and the states in this field. The first four specific areas of flooding or potential flooding listed below were due to or aggravated by ice jams.

2. LANCASTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

An ice jam that had been a source of concern and was under periodic surveillance by the Corps of Engineers all winter caused flooding in the center of town. There was no destruction of structures or bridges, but damages due to submersion were significant.

3. CHERRYFIELD, MAINE

The most severe ice jam of several years threatened the U. S. Route 1 highway bridge, but broke up and went out to sea during the March thaw without damage to the bridge. There was some flooding of properties and roads adjacent to the Narraguagus River, with relatively minor damages. A Federal local protection project consisting of a dam just upriver of the center of town, built by the Corps in 1961, prevented more severe damage from ice in the upper river.

4. FRYEBURG, MAINE

Ice jams on the Saco River impounded water in the Fryeburg area to elevations threatening residential property in that region. Although the river and tributary pond areas reached levels only attained at a frequency of about 10 years, no flooding of developed property occurred. The State and local officials were advised to study the possibility of modified operation of a power dam on Saco River and other measures that might minimize future susceptibility to similar impoundments.

5. CONNECTICUT RIVER - BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT

An ice jam in the vicinity of Bellows Falls, Vermont contributed to the rise in river levels to flood stage in March. As the jam broke and passed down river, some minor damage was occasioned along the immediate riverbanks.

6. DAM FAILURE - LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

A privately-owned earth dam built to create an artificial lake at a housing development failed suddenly a few days after the period of heavy March rains in that area. The Corps and the Office of Emergency Planning

made joint surveys of the damages caused, and estimates were furnished to the Office of Emergency Planning. The highway repairs and stream clearing were performed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. No direct Federal assistance was found to be required. As a result of this dam failure, the State initiated a program to review the adequacy and safety of the hundreds of private dams in the State and to establish improved criteria for construction and maintenance.

7. TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The city of Taunton informally requested and was provided around the clock advice and guidance in its flood fighting activities for over a week. The city was threatened with the imminent failure of two private dams on the Taunton River just above the center of the city. Measures suggested by the Corps advisory team at the site and undertaken by the city to relieve pressures on these dams was generally credited with the success in preserving these structures through the period of emergency.

8. SANDBAG OPERATIONS

The Massachusetts Civil Defense Administration requested and was provided 102,600 sandbags from the Corps of Engineers stockpile at Fort Devens during the 5-day emergency period 18-23 March. The Civil Defense cleared their requests through the Office of Emergency Planning and in behalf of 30 separate cities and towns in Massachusetts. The sandbags were transported and temporarily stored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works at its Wellesley depot. The sandbags were provided and accepted with the clear understanding that they would be returned or that the Corps would be reimbursed for their cost. A tabulation of the

widespread use of the sandbags by the various towns follows:

Andover	200	Lowell	2,000
Ashland	600	Maynard	1,600
Attleboro	1,000	Natick	2,000
Bedford	10,000	Needham	6,000
Beverly	1,000	Newton	6,000
Billerica	6,400	Saugus	1,000
Boston	2,400	Stowe	200
Canton	1,000	Sudbury	1 50
Dedham	6,000	Taunton	2 , 600
Dover	2,000	Tewksbury	3,200
Easton	600	Waltham	6,000
Framingham	1,000	Watertown	8,000
Freetown	600	Wayland	10,000
Hamilton	200	Wellesley	4,000
Ipswich	1,000	Westford	600

9. HEADQUARTERS OPERATION DURING FLOOD EMERGENCY

Owing to the wide extent of the flood emergency that began to develop on 19 March, a total of 8 teams of engineers were dispatched from Head-quarters to specific locations where reports indicated emergency conditions might exist. These teams were sent out primarily as observers. As trouble spots developed teams were dispatched on 20, 21 and 22 March for the purpose of having Corps representation in the field. The number of teams in the field varied from 4 to 8 at any one time. Over the week-end of 22-25 March an around-the-clock telephone watch was maintained to monitor incoming telephone calls. This was in addition to the overtime Head-quarters staff (Reservoir Regulation Section) which was on hand during the normal work week of 19-23 March.

Subsequent to the flood period a total of ten 2-man parties were sent out to mark and record high watermarks. This was accomplished over a

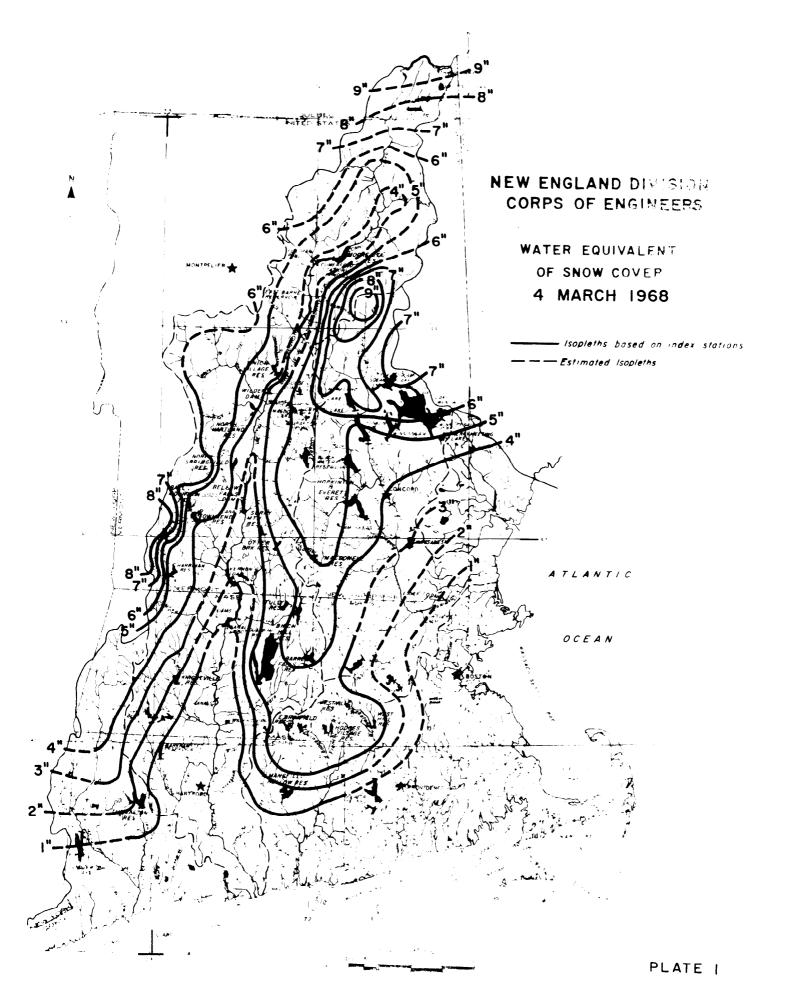
10-day period. Actual leveling in of the marks will be accomplished as funds become available.

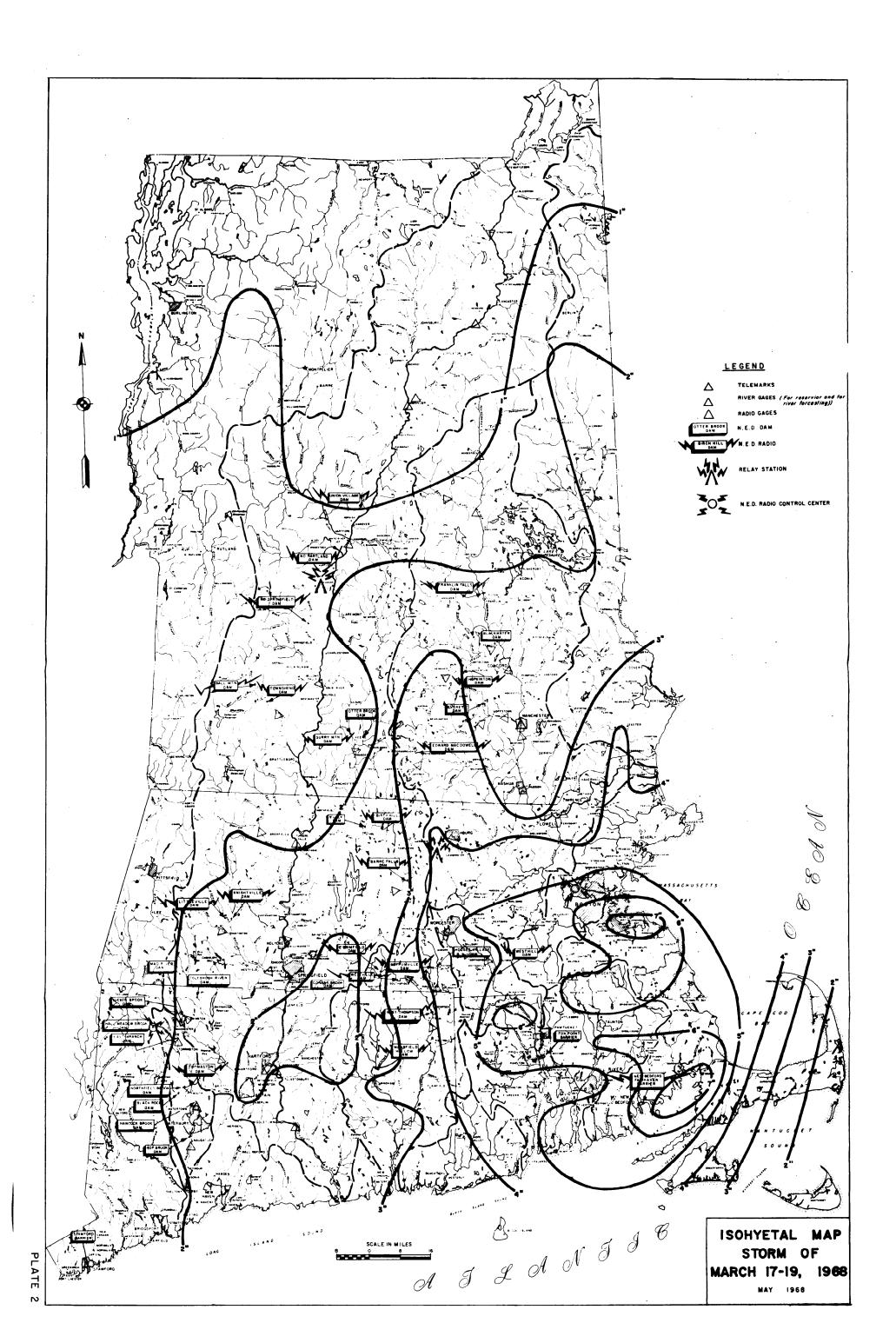
10. GENERAL SUMMARY

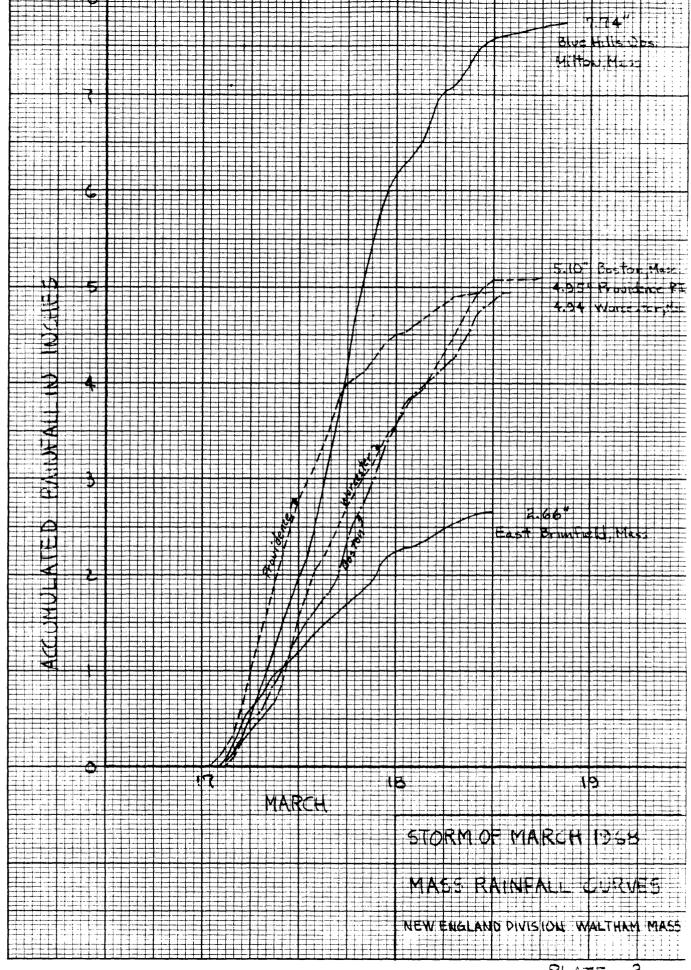
The emergency operations aspect of the flooding of March 1968 continually bordered on, but never actually crossed over into that stage where the Corps would take actual control of flood fighting activities.

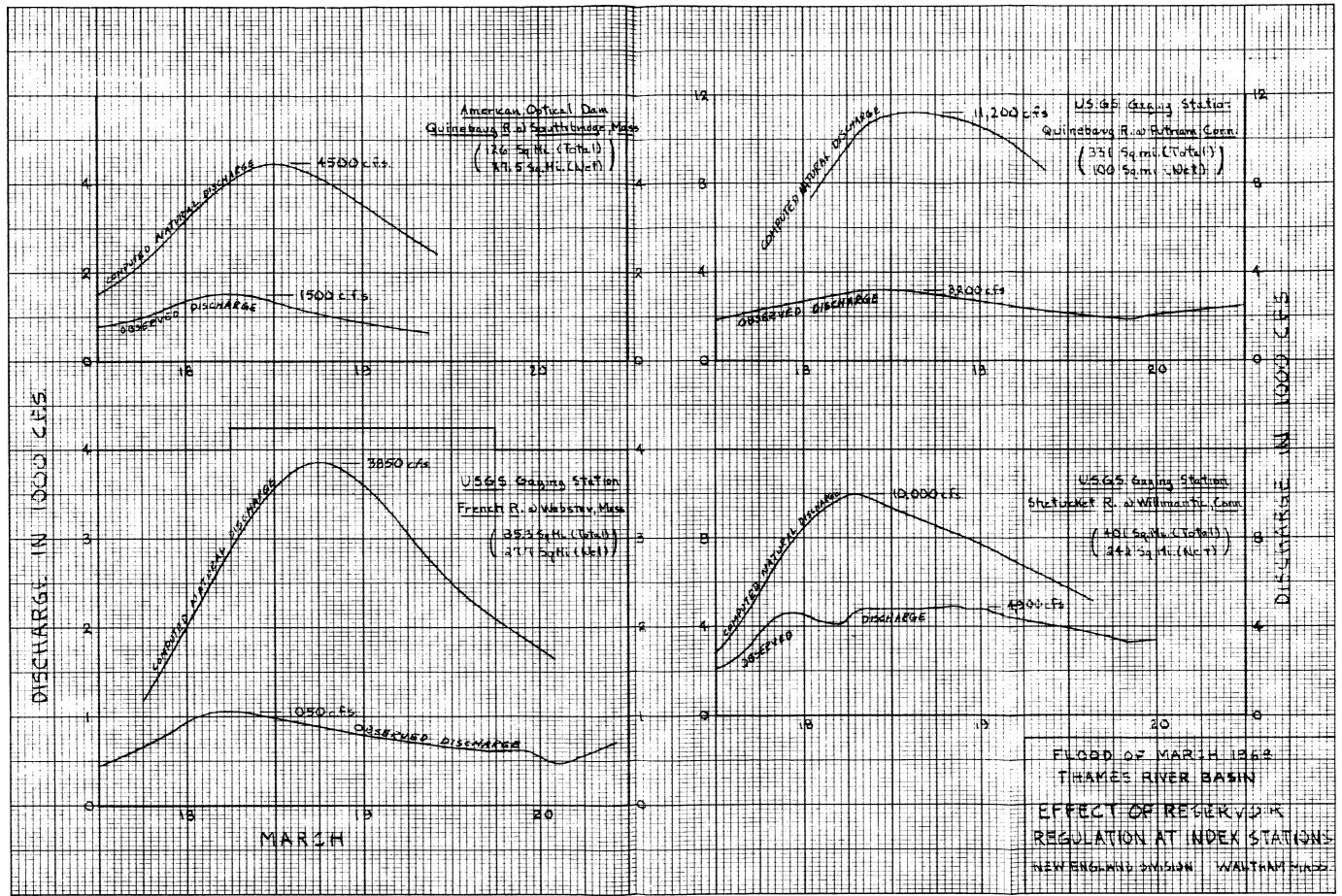
PART V - FLOOD PROFILES

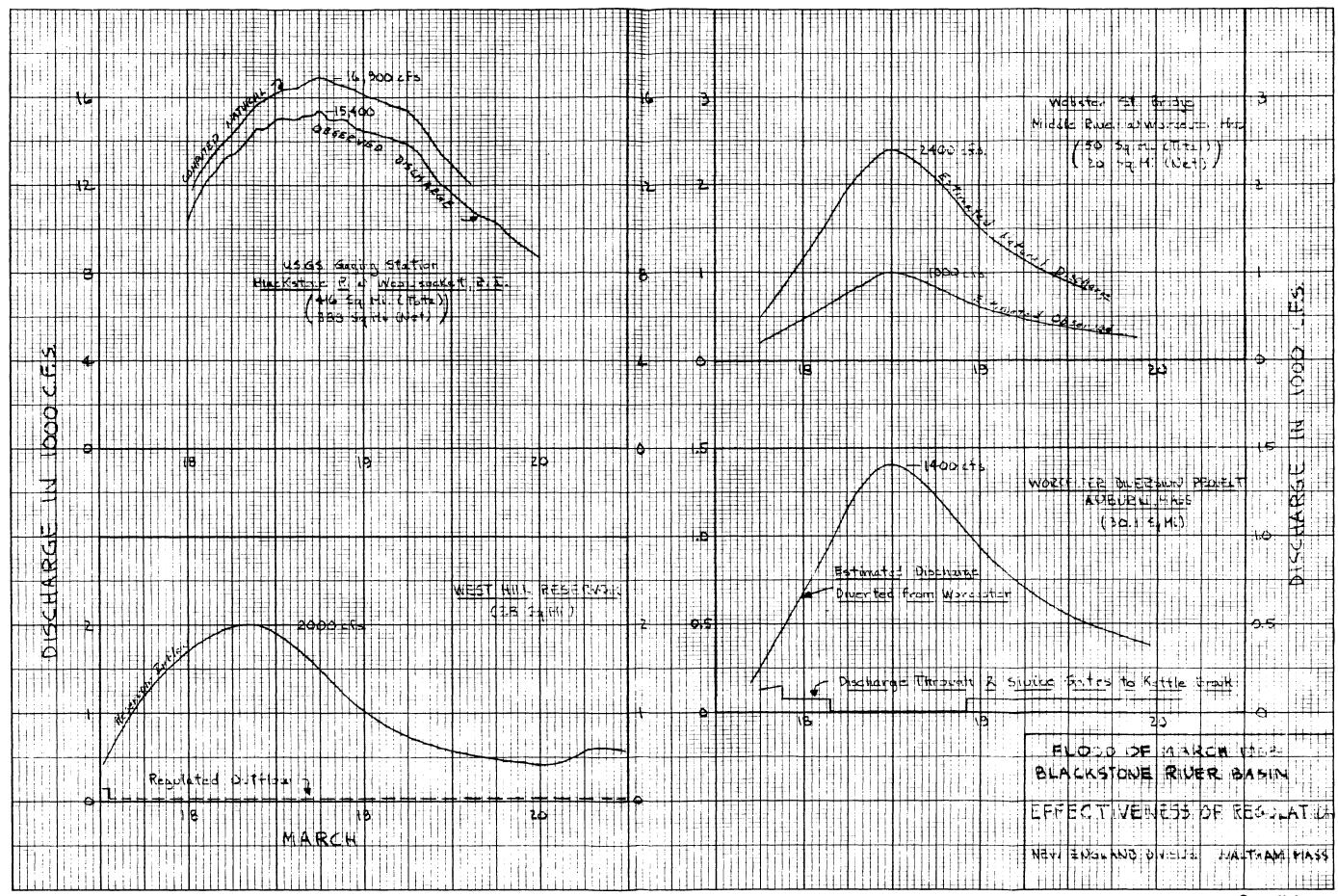
(To be submitted at a later date)

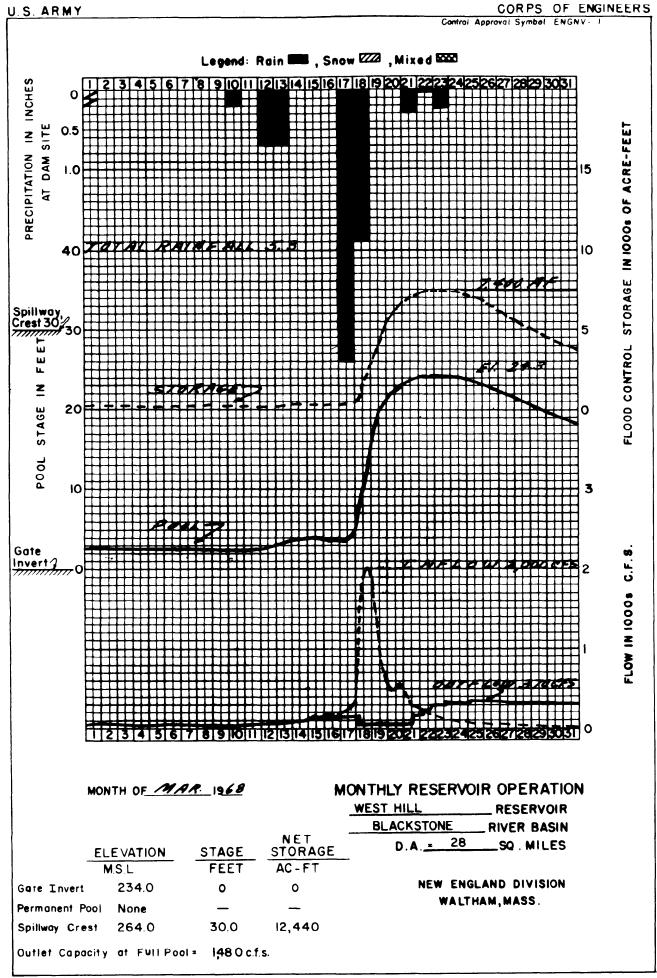


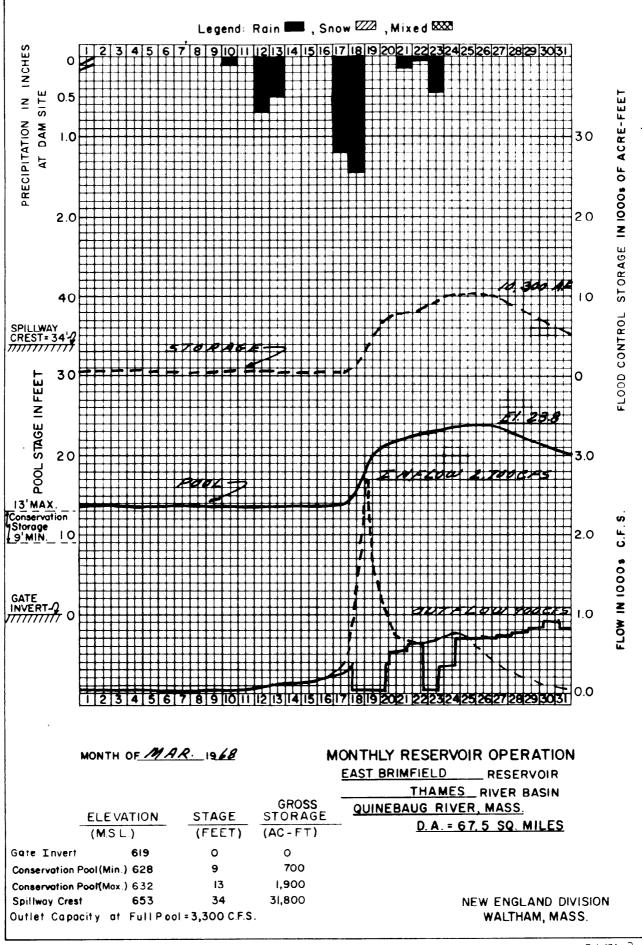








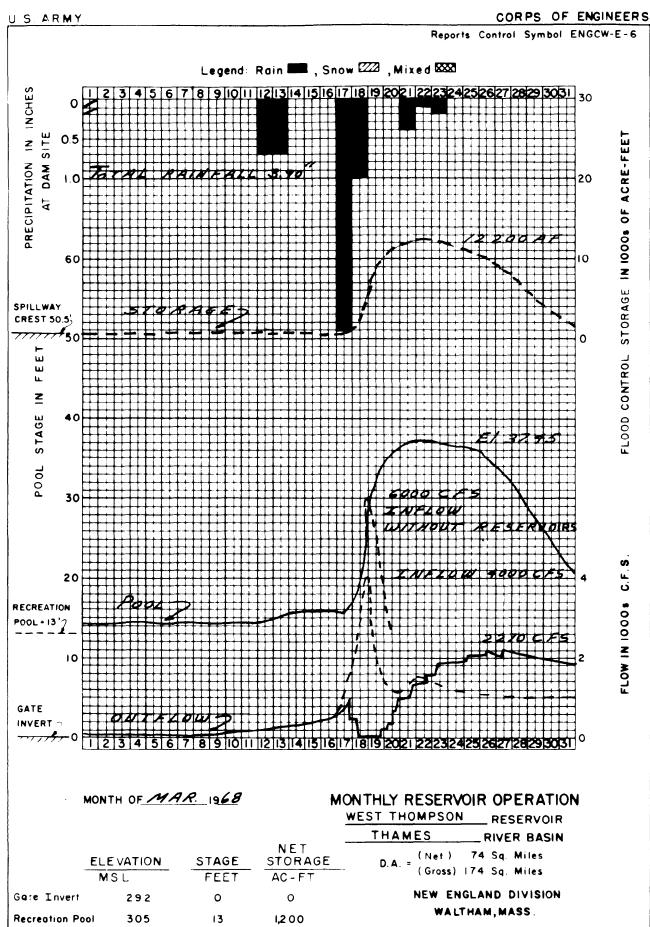




Reports Conto. Symbol Eleck

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 3,750 C.F.S.

WALTHAM, MASS.



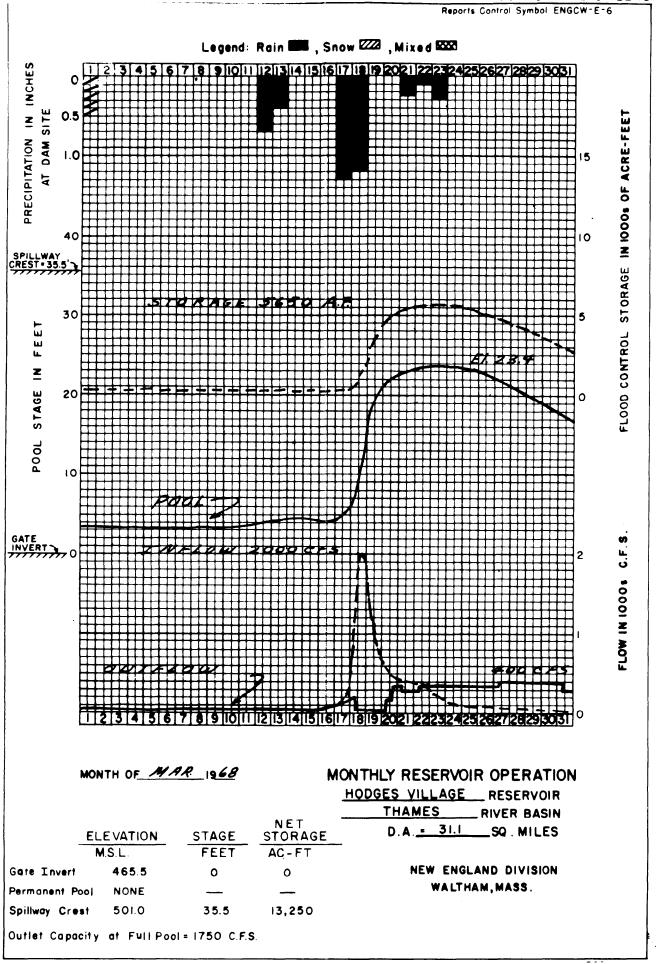
Spillway Crest

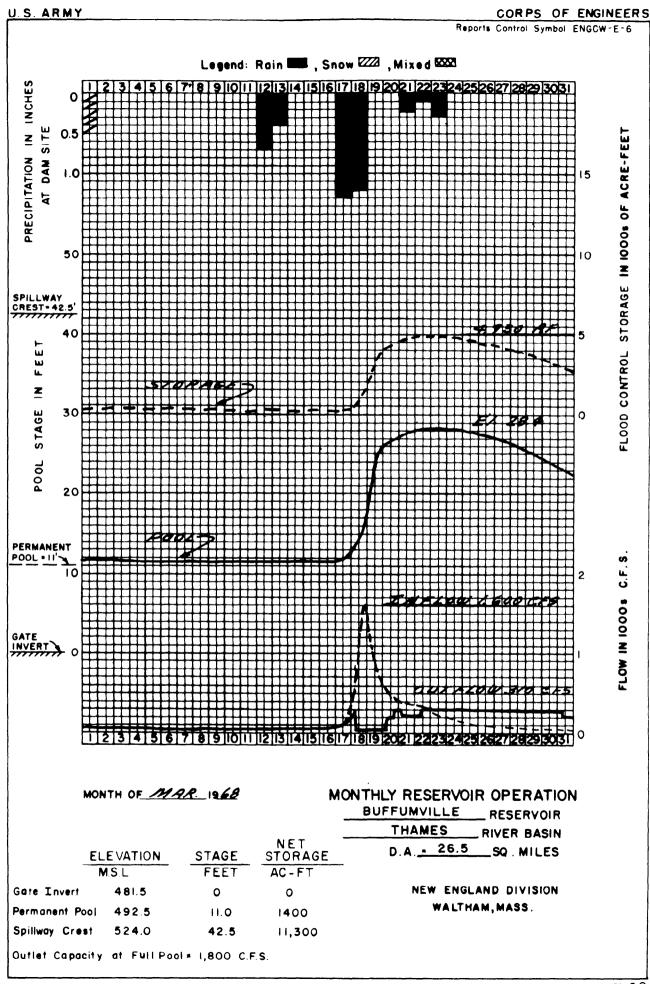
342.5

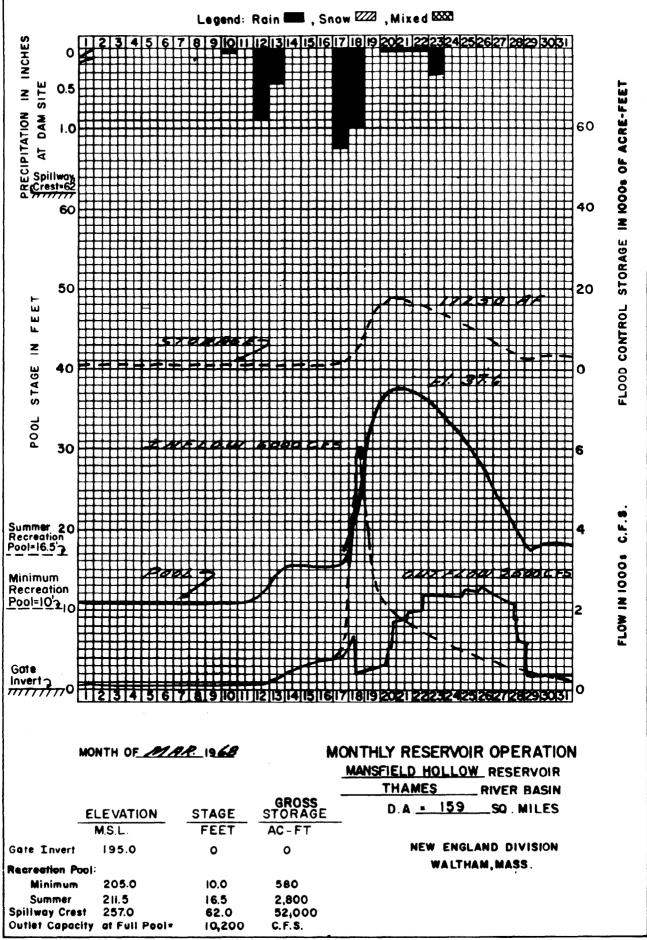
Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 5,100 C.F.S.

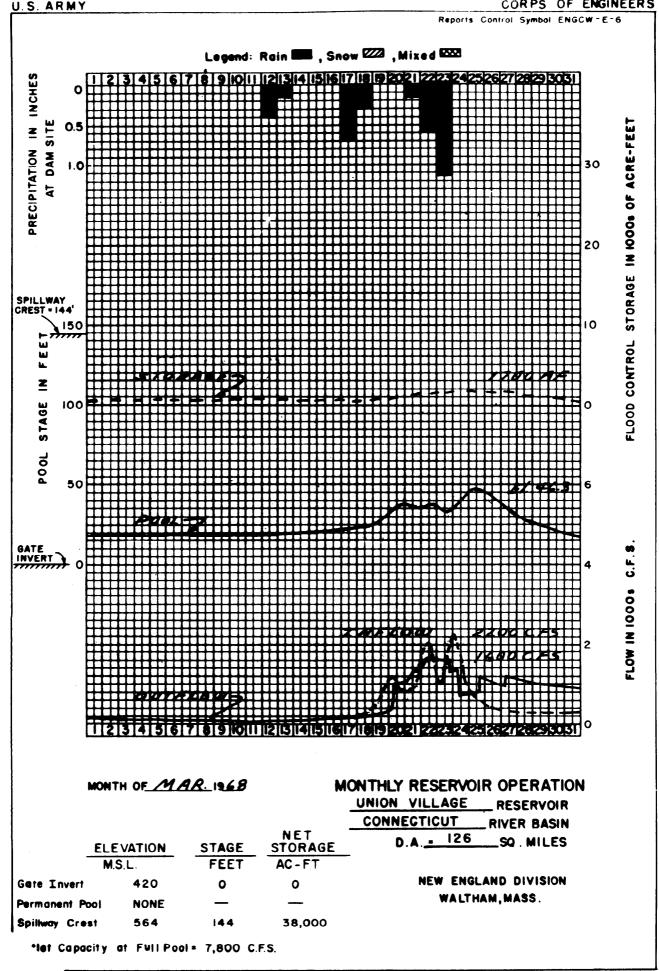
50.5

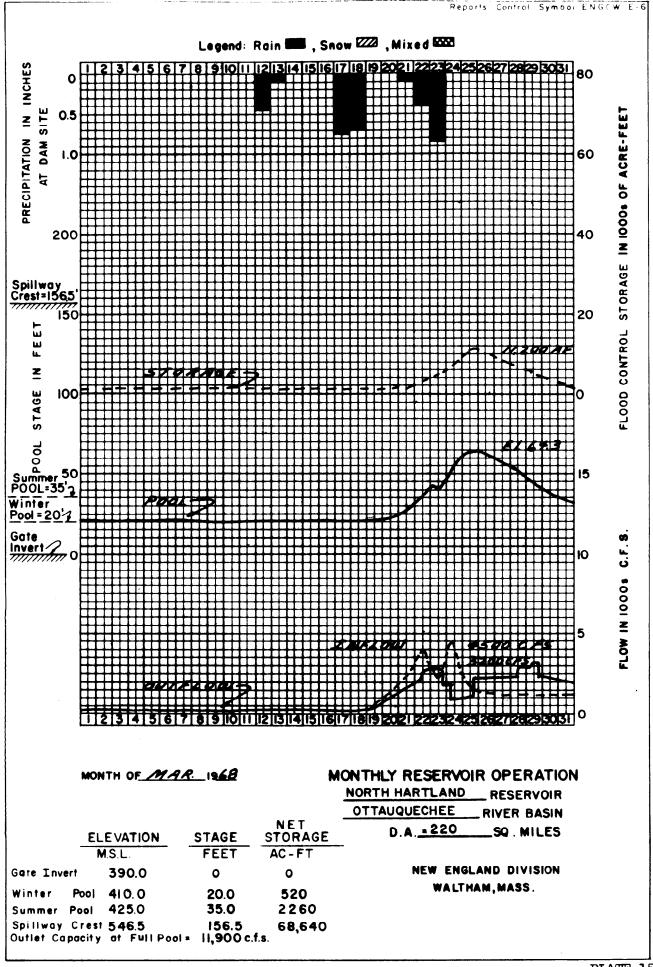
25,600

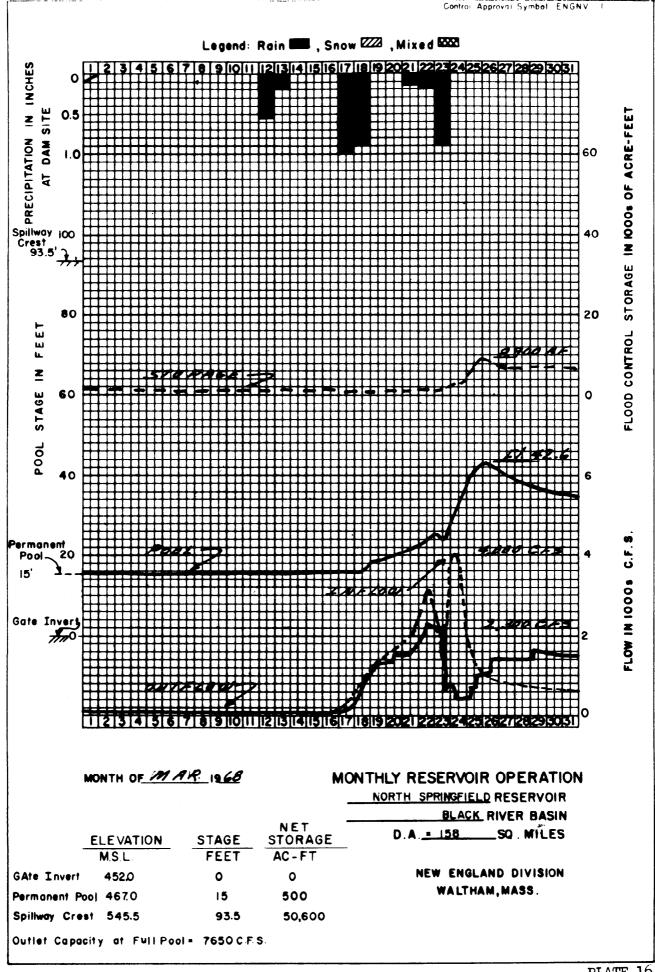












INCHES

PRECIPITATION

Spillway Crest=211.57

ET

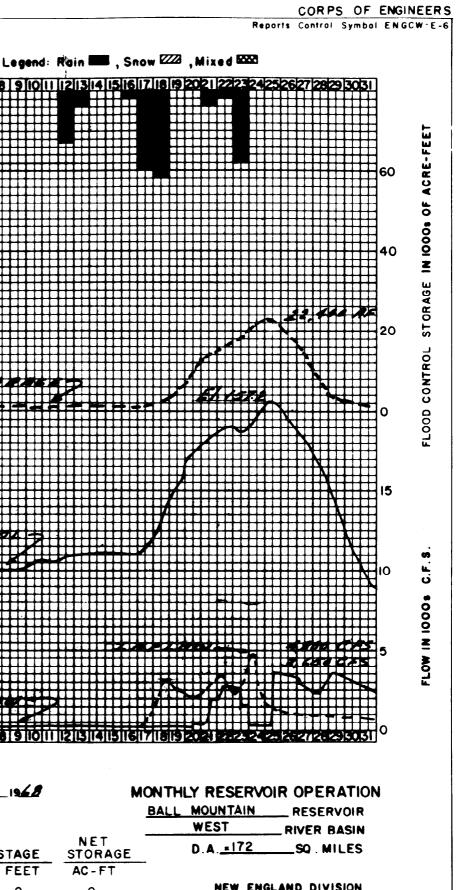
W Z

POOL

Permanent Pool 65'2

Gate Invert 3

<u>≅</u> ± 0.5

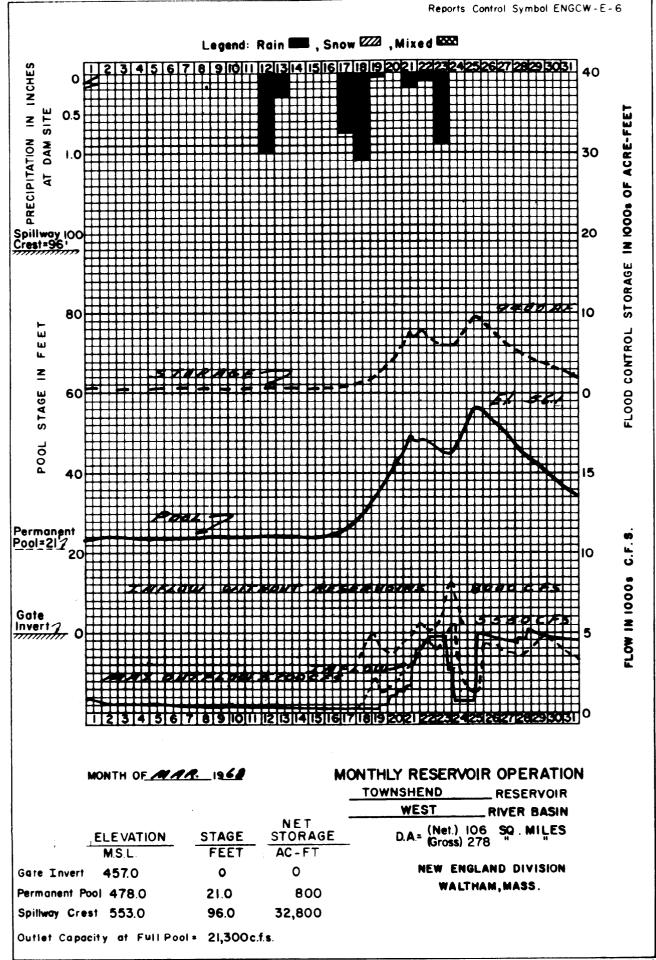


MONTH OF MAR. 1968

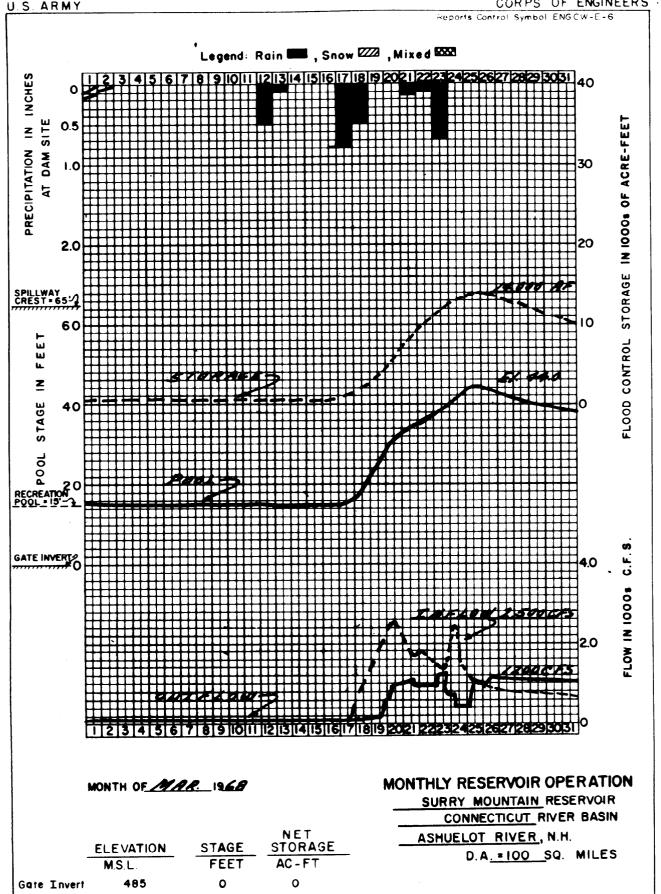
MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

1				WEST RIVER BASIN
	ELEVATION	STAGE	NET STORAGE	D.A. =172 SQ . MILES
	M.S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	
Gate Invert	805.5	0	0	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Permanent Pool 870.5		[′] 65 ′	2240	WALTHAM, MASS.
Spillway Cre	est 1017.0	211.5	52,360	

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 11,350 c.f.s.



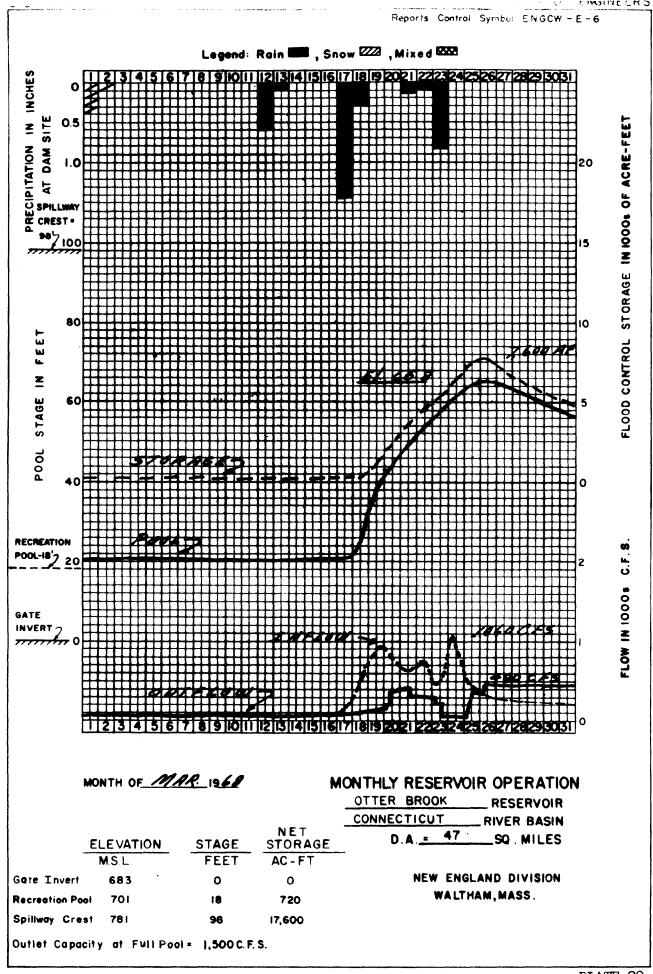
U. 5. ARM

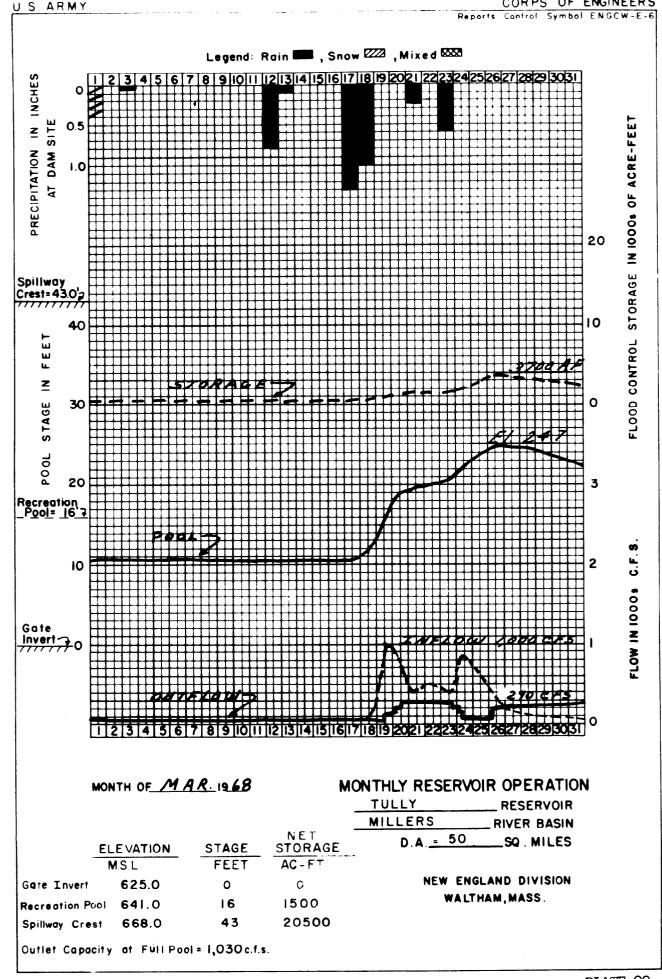


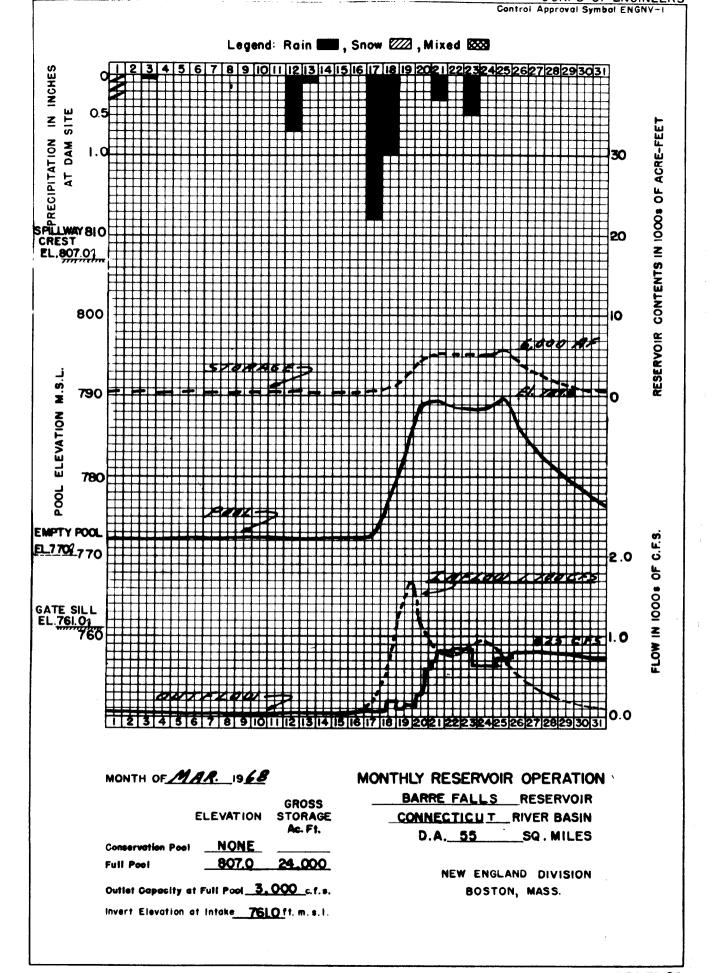
Recreation Pool 500 1,320 15 65 31,300 550 Spillway Crest

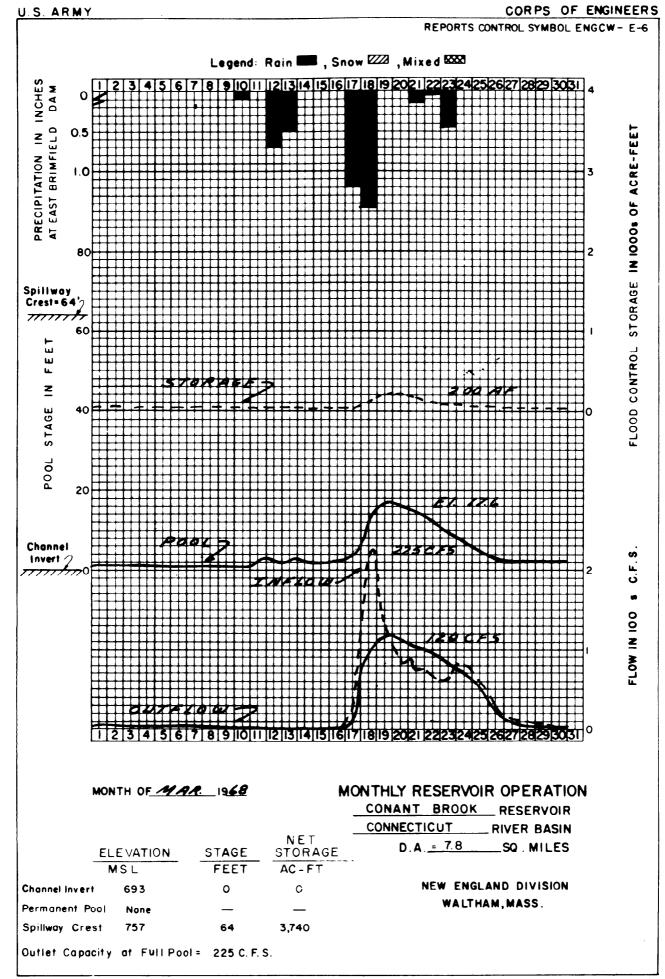
Outlet Capacity at Full Pool =3,660 C.F.S.

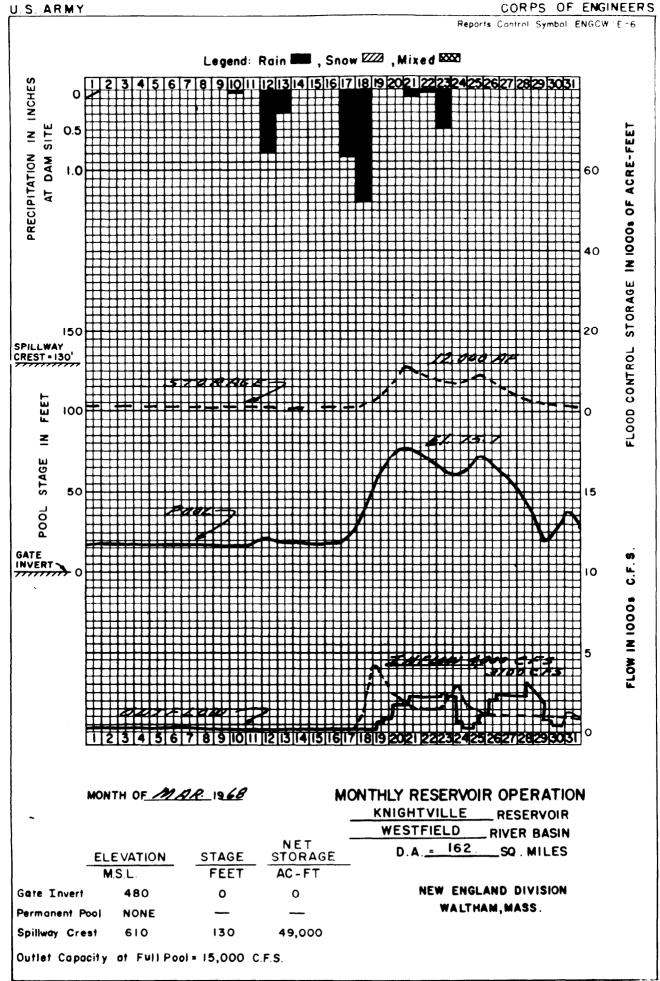
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION WALTHAM, MASS.

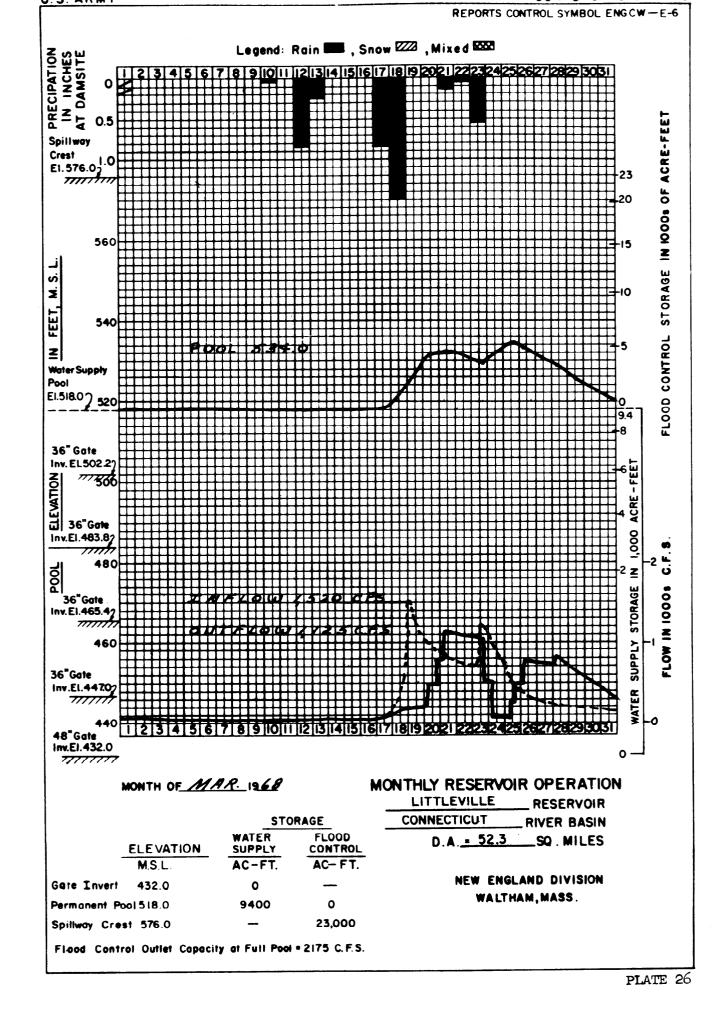


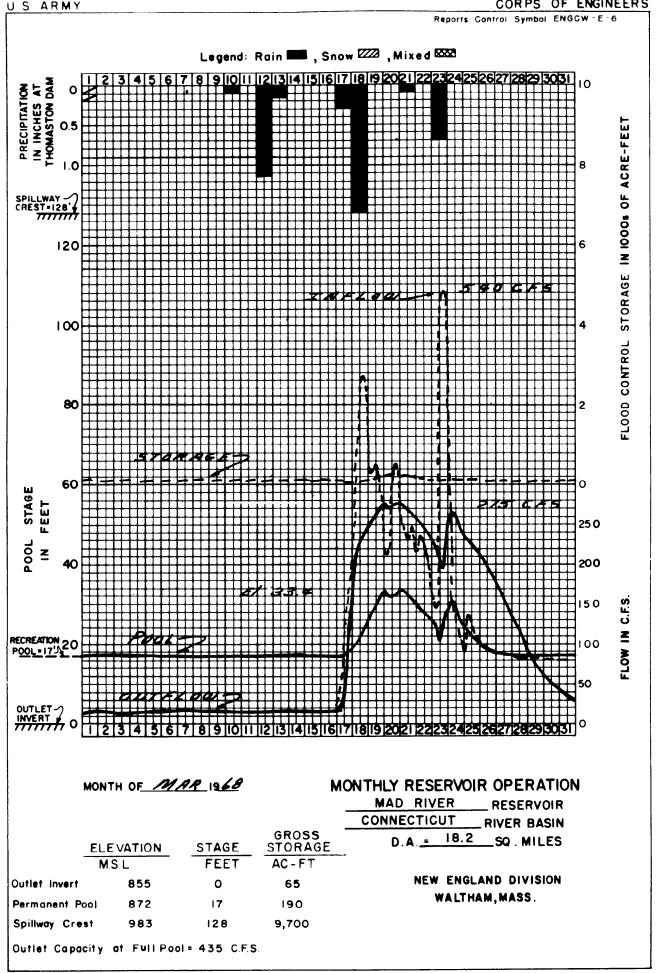


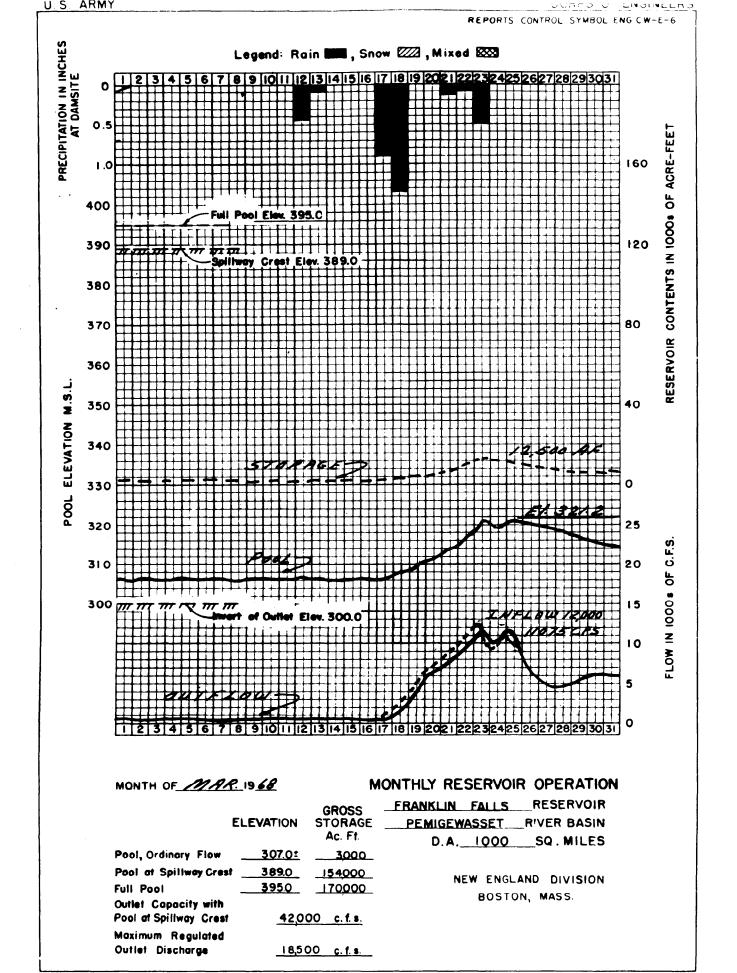


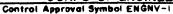


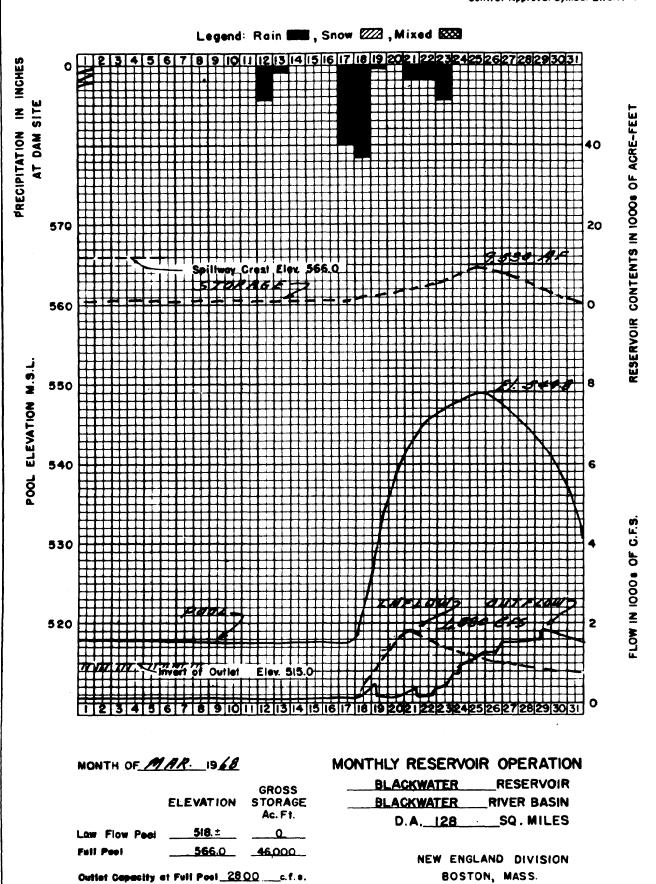


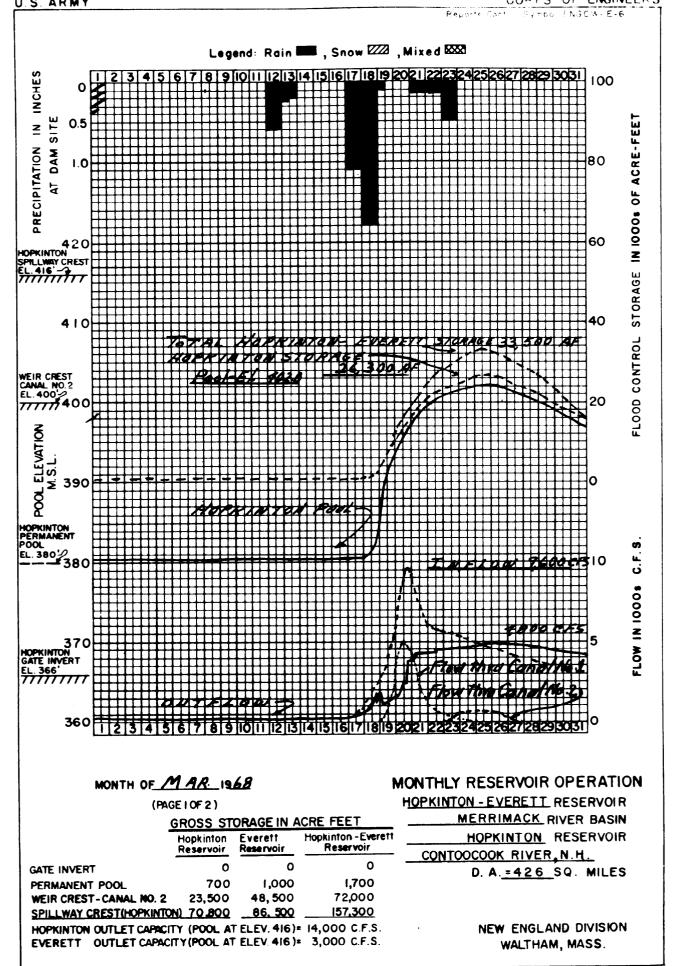


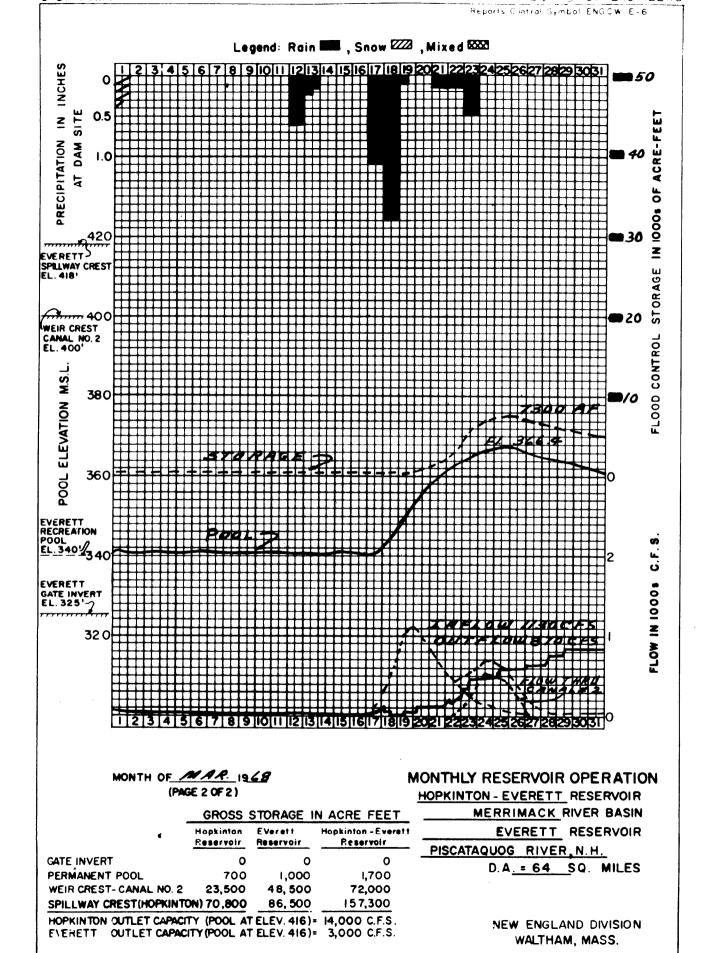


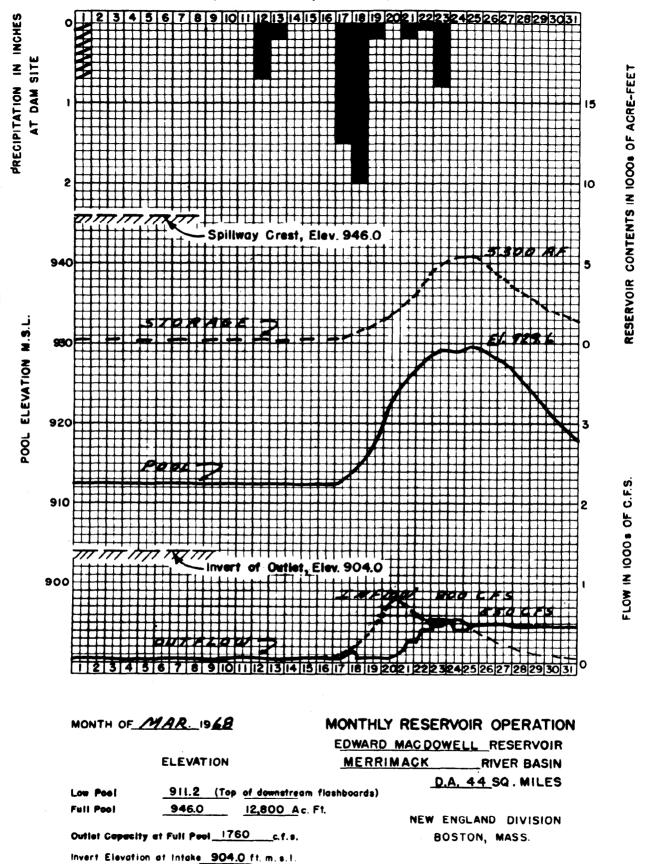


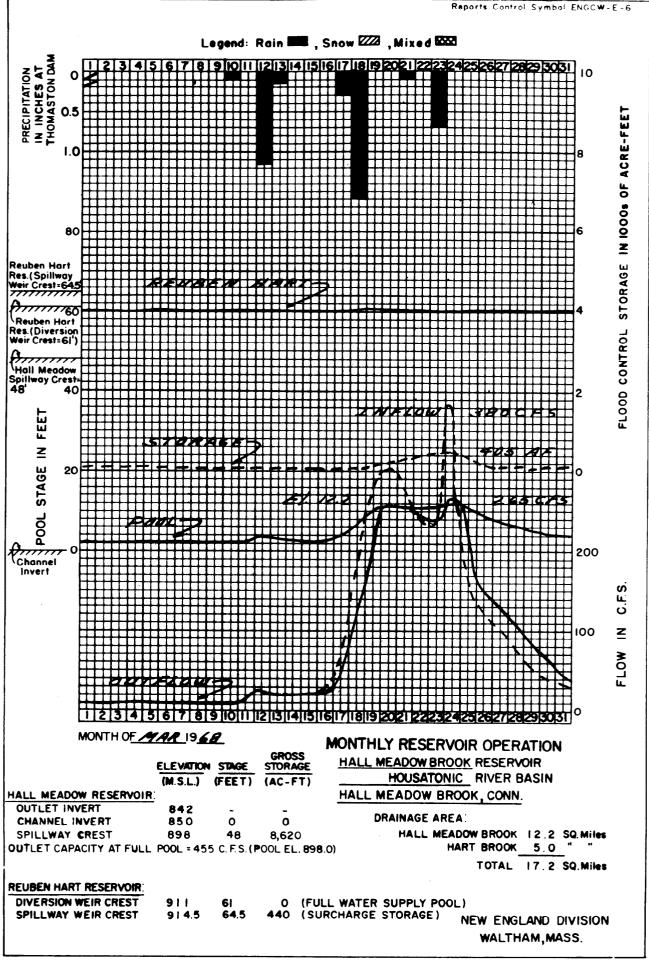






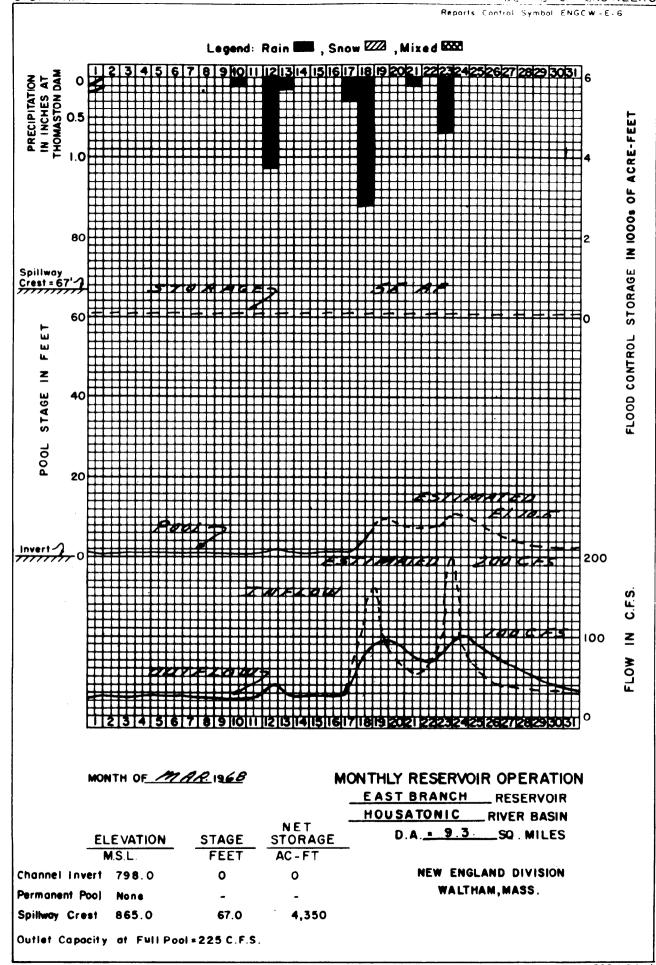


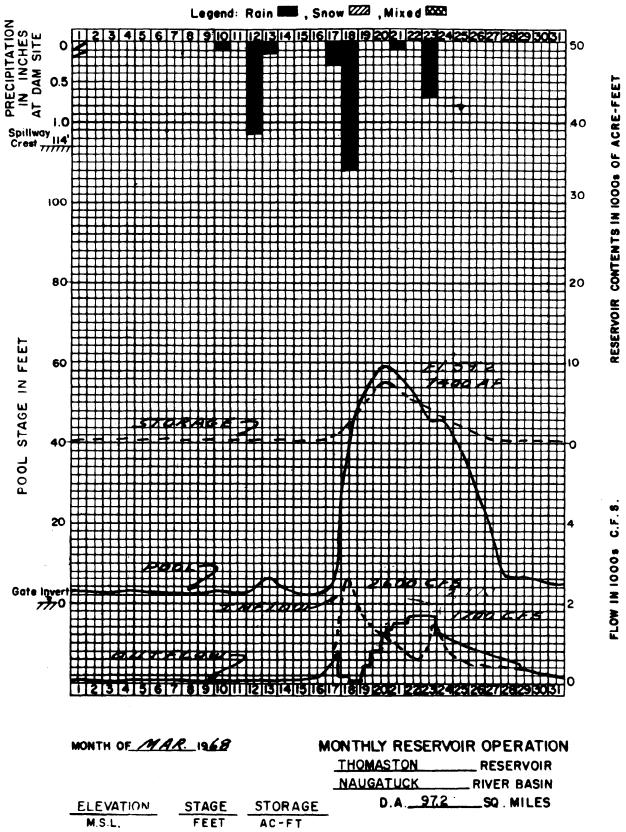




U. 3. ARM 1

CORPS OF ENGINEERS





		FEET AC-FT		
	M.S.L.		FEET AC-FT	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Gate Inve	rt 38C.0	0.0		
Permanent i	Pool ——		None	WALTHAM, MASS.
Full Pool	494.0	114.0	42,000	
Outlet Capi	acity at Full Po	001 = 5500 C.F.	S.	

